MAZIE SLATER KATZ & FREEMAN, LLC

COUNSELLORS AT LAW

103 Eisenhower Parkway Roseland, NJ 07068 (973) 228-9898 Fax (973) 228-0303 www.mskf.net

David A. Mazie** Adam M. Slater*∘ Eric D. Katz*∘ David M. Freeman

Writer's Direct Dial 973-228-0391

Counsel Beth G. Baldinger^o

Jennifer D. Pawlak^o Marco V. Capasso Matthew R. Mendelsohn^o

^o Member of N.J. & N.Y. Bars

*Certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Civil Trial Attorney

† Certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy

May 1, 2008

VIA CERTIFIED AND REGULAR MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

United Benefit Fund 75-13 Metropolitan Avenue Middle Village, New York 11379

RE:

North Jersey Brain & Spine Center v. United Benefit Fund

Docket No. BER-L-3241-08

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed herewith is a Summons and Complaint with regard to the above matter. Please be guided accordingly.

Very truly yours,

MATTHEW R. MENDELSOHN

MRM/av Enclosures

H:\EDK\Comp Neuro\United Benefit Fund\Metropolitan ltr encl summons complaint 5-1-08.doc

DEPUTY CLERKS OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

ATLANTIC COUNTY:
Lori Mooney, Clerk
Civil Division, Direct Filing
1201 Bacharach Blvd., First Fl.
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
LAWYER REFERRAL
(609) 345-3444
LEGAL SERVICES
(609) 348-4200

BERGEN COUNTY: Kathleen A. Donovan, Clerk 119 Justice Center 10 Main Street Hackensack, NJ 07601-7968 LAWYER REFERRAL (201) 488-0044 LEGAL SERVICES (201) 487-2166

BURLINGTON COUNTY: Edward A. Kelly, Jr., Clerk First Fl., Courts Facility 49 Rancocas Road Mt. Holley, NJ 08060 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 261-4862 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 261-1088

CAMDEN COUNTY: Michael S. Keating, Clerk First FL. Hall of Records 501 Fifth Street Camden, NJ 08103 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 364-4520 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 364-2010

CAPE MAY COUNTY:
Angela F. Pulvino, Clerk
(Law Division Filings)
Box DN-209
Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210
or
(General Equity Filings)
Box DN-209A
Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210
LAWYER REFERRAL
(609) 463-0313
LEGAL SERVICES
(609) 465-3001

CUMBERLAND COUNTY: John G. Nardelli, Clerk Courthouse, Direct Filing Broad & Fayette Streets Bridgeton, NJ 08302 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 452-5291 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 451-0003/935-8024

ESSEX COUNTY:
Patricia McGarry Drake, Clerk
236 Hall of Records
465 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07102
LAWYER REFERRAL
(201) 533-1779
LEGAL SERVICES
(201) 624-4500

GLOUCESTER COUNTY:
Joseph H. Hoffman, Clerk
First Fl., Court House
I North Broad Street, P.O. Box 129
Woodbury, NJ 08096
LAWYER REFERRAL
(609) 848-4589
LEGAL SERVICES
(609) 848-5360

HUDSON COUNTY:
Frank E. Rodgers, Clerk
Superior Court, Civil Records Dept.
Brennan Court House
583 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306
LAWYER REFERRAL
(201) 798-2727
LEGAL SERVICES
(201) 792-6363

HUNTERDON COUNTY: Dorothy K. Tirpok, Clerk Hall of Records 71 Main Street Flemington, NJ 08822 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 788-6112 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 782-7979 MERCER COUNTY:
Albert E. Driver, Jr., Clerk
P.O. Box 8068
209 South Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08650
LAWYER REFERRAL
(609) 890-6200
LEGAL SERVICES
(609) 695-6249

MIDDLESEX COUNTY:
Herbert P. Lashomb, Clerk
Court House, East Wing
Lobby Floor/P.O. Box 2633
One Kennedy Square
New Brunswick, NJ 08903-2633
LAWYER REFERRAL
(908) 828-0053
LEGAL SERVICES
(908) 249-7600

MONMOUTH COUNTY: Jane Clayton, Clerk P.O. Box 1262 Court House, East Wing Freehold, NJ 07728-1262 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 431-5544 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 747-7400

MORRIS COUNTY: Alfonse W. Scerbo, Clerk CN-900 30 Schuyler Place Morristown, NJ 07960 LAWYER REFERRAL (201) 267-5882 LEGAL SERVICES (201) 285-6911

OCEAN COUNTY: M. Dean Haines, Clerk 119 Court House CN-2191 Toms River, NJ 08754 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 240-3666 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 371-2727 SOMERSET COUNTY: R. Peter Widin, Clerk Civil/General Equity New Court House, 3rd Floor P.O. Box 3000 Somerville, NJ 08876 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 685-2323 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 231-7400

SUSSEX COUNTY:
Helen C. Ackerman, Clerk
Superior Court, Law Division
49 High Street
Newton, NJ 07860
LAWYER REFERRAL
(201) 267-5882
LEGAL SERVICES
(201) 383-7400

UNION COUNTY: Walter G. Halpin, Clerk First Floor, Court House Elizabeth, NJ 07207 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 353-4715 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 354-4340

WARREN COUNTY: Terrance D. Lee, Clerk Court House Belvidere, NJ 07823 LAWYER REFERRAL (201) 267-5882 LEGAL SERVICES (201) 475-2010

MAZIE SLATER KATZ & FREEMAN, LLC

103 Eisenhower Parkway Roseland, New Jersey 07068 (973) 228-9898 Attorneys for Plaintiff

NORTH JERSEY BRAIN & SPINE CENTER,

: SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY : LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY : DOCKET NO.: BER-L-3241-08

Plaintiff,

AFFIDAVIT OF DILIGENT INQUIRY

VS.

UNITED BENEFIT FUND,

Defendant.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
) SS:
COUNTY OF ESSEX)

MATTHEW R. MENDELSOHN, of full age, hereby certifies as follows:

- 1. I am an attorney-at-law of the State of New Jersey and an associate with the law firm of Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman, attorneys for plaintiffs in the above-captioned matter. I am making this affidavit pursuant to R. 4:4-4(b)(1) to permit plaintiff to serve the Summons and Complaint in this action upon the defendant, United Benefit Fund, via regular mail and certified mail pursuant to the provisions of this rule.
- 2. Plaintiff filed the within action seeking damages against defendant for breach of contract and related claims.
- Our research indicates that the defendant's address is 75-13 Metropolitan
 Avenue, Middle Village, New York 11379 and our research did not uncover a New Jersey address.

CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT		FOR USE BY CLERK'S OFFICE ONLY		
(CIS)		PAYMENT TYPE: CK CG CA		
		CHG/CK NO.		
Use for initial Law Division – Civil Part pleadings (not motions) under Rule 4:5-1		AMOUNT		
Pleadings will be rejected for filing, under Rule 1:5-6(c), if information above the black bar is		OVERPAYMENT:		
not completed or if attorney's signature is not affixed.		BATCH NUMBER:		
ATTORNEY/PRO SE NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COUNTY OF VENUE		
Eric D. Katz, Esq.	(973) 228-9898	Bergen		
FIRM NAME (IF APPLICABLE)		DOCKET NUMBER (when available)		
Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman, LLP		L-3241-08		
103 Eisenhower Parkway		Complaint		
Roseland, New Jersey 07068		JURY DEMAND		
·		X Yes No		
NAME OF PARTY (e.g. John Doe, Pleintiff) North Jersey Brain & Spine Center	North Jorgan Droin & C.	pine Center v. United Benefit Fund		
January State of Stat	Troitin sersey Drain & 3	pine Center v. Office Belletit Fund		
CASE TYPE (see reverse side for listing) 502	IS THIS A PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE CASE? Yes X No			
	IF YOU HAVE CHECKED YES, SEE	N.J.S.A. 2A:53A-27 AND APPLICABLE CASE LAW REGARDING YOU		
RELATED CASE PENDING	OBLIGATION TO FILE AN AFFIDAVIT OF IF YES, LIST DOCKET NUMBERS	MEHI.		
Yes X No DO YOU ANTICIPATE ADDING ANY PARTIES				
(ensing out of same transaction or occurrence)?	NAME OF DEFENDANTS PRIMAR	Y INSURANCE COMPANY, IF KNOWN		
Yes X No		nknown		
THE INFORMATION PROVIDED	ON THIS FORM CANNOT	BE INTRODUCED INTO EVIDENCE		
CASE CHARACTERISTICS FOR PURPOSES OF DE	ETERMINING IF CASE IS APPRO	PRIATE FOR MEDIATION		
A DO PARTIES HAVE A CURRENT, PAST OR RECURRENT RELATIONSHIP?	IF YES, IS THAT RELATIONSHIP EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE	FRIEND/NEIGHBOR OTHER		
Yes No	(explain)	BUSINESS		
B. DOES THE STATUTE GOVERNING THIS CASE	EVILLE FAMILIAL	POSINESS		
PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF FEES BY THE LOSING PARTY? Yes	No			
USE THIS SPACE TO ALERT THE COURT TO ANY SPECIAL CHARA	CTERISTICS THAT MAY WARRANT INDIVI	DUAL MANAGEMENT OR ACCELERATED DISPOSITION:		
DO YOU OR YOUR CLIENT HAVE ANY NEEDS UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES				
ACT?		ES, PLEASE IDENTIFY THE REQUESTED		
WILL AN INTERPRETER BE NEEDED?		OMMODATION:		
ATTORNEY SIGNATURE	Yes X No ⊫ys	ES, FOR WHAT LANGUAGE:		

SIDE 2



CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT

(CIS)

8			UIO)		
90	\RRR S	e for initial pleadings (r	not mo	tions) under Rule 4:5-1	
₩	10 1 10 1 dd				
CASETVE	S: (Channe and arthur				
T	development	umber of case type ii	таррг	opriate space on the reverse side.)	
	days' discovery				
151	Name Change				
175	Forfeiture				
302	Tenancy				
399	Real Property (other than Tena	incy, Contract, Condemn	ation, C	omplex Commercial or Construction)	
502	Book Account				
505	Other Insurance Claim (including Declaratory Judgment Actions)				
506	PIP Coverage				
510	UM or UIM Claim				
511	Action on Negotiable Instrument				
512	Lemon Law T				
801	Summary Action				
802	Open Public Records Act (Summary Action)				
999	OTHER (Briefly describe natu				
		,			
TRACK II - 3	00 days' discovery				
305	Construction				
509	Employment (other than CEP	A or LAD)			
599	Contract/Commercial Transaction				
603	Auto Negligence - Personal Injury				
605	Personal Injury	gury			
610	Auto Negligence - Property D	lamane			
699	Tort - Other	amage			
000	ron - Other				
TRACK III - 4	50 days' discovery				
005	Civil Rights				
301	Condemnation				
602	Assault and Battery				
604	Medical Malpractice				
606					
607	Product Liability				
608	Professional Malpractice				
	Toxic Tort				
609	Defamation				
616	Whistleblower/Conscientious Employee Protection Act (CEPA) Cases				
617	Inverse Condemnation				
618	Law Against Discrimination (L	AD) Cases			
TDACK IV. A	otive Cons Monagement by L	altanta de la composición del composición de la			
156	ctive Case Management by In Environmental Coverage Litigation		ays' di	scovery	
303	Mt. Laurel	allon			
508	······ ===-· +-				
506 513	Complex Commercial				
	Complex Construction				
514 704	Insurance Fraud				
701	Actions in Lieu Prerogative W	nt			
	Maco Tow /Tenak RA				
241	Mass Tort (Track IV)				
	TOBACCO		275	ORTHO EVRA	
248 266	CIBA GEIGY	THE ABY " 1000	276	DEPO-PROVERA	
266 271	HORMONE REPLACEMENT	THERAPY (HRT)	277	MAHWAH TOXIC DUMP	
271	ACCUTANE		278	ZOMETA/AREDIA	
272 274	BEXTRA/CELEBREX	DEVI	601	ASBESTOS	
274	RISPERDAL/SEROQUEL/ZYI	'KEXA	619	VIOXX	
If you believe this "Case Characteri	case requires a track other than that stics".	provided above, please in	idicate t	he reason on Side 1, in the space under	

Please check off each applicable category: Effective: 02/01/2008, CN: 10517-English Verbal Threshold Putative Class Action Title 59

SUPPRIOR COURT LAW GIV

BENGEW COUNTY UNGTICE CTR RK 415 HACKEMBACK NU 07301-7480

TRACK ASSIGNATAT MOTICE

COURT FELEPHONE NO. (201) 527-2600 COURT NOUNS

DATE: APRIL 29, 2000 RE: NORTH JERSEY BRAIN & SPIRE CIR VS UNITED DENEFIT DOCKET: BER L -008241 00

THE ABOVE CASE HAS BEEN ASSISNED TO: TRACK 1.

DISCOVERY IS 150 DAYS AND RUNS FROM THE FIRST ANSWER OF 50 DAYS FROM SERVICE ON THE FIRST DEFENDANT, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

THE PRETRIAL JUDGE ASSIGNED IS: HOW JOHN J. LANSAM

IF YOU HAVE MAY QUESTIONS, CONTACT TEAM 004 AT: (201) 527-2:00.

IT YOU BELGIVE THAT THE TRACK IS INAPPROPRIETE YOU MUST TILE A CONTRACTOR YOU SUST TILE A CONTRACTOR FOR SUCH SERVE CORDER OF THIS FORM OF ALL CORES VARYIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SLASSAND.

ATTENDIONS

ATTS FRIC O. KATZ
MARIE SLATUR KATZ & TT JOHAN
100 EISENDOWER PARKWAY
ROSTLAND NJ 07068

JUBRE

MAZIE SLATER KATZ & FREEMAN, LLC

103 Eisenhower Parkway Roseland, New Jersey 07068 (973) 228-9898 Attorneys for Plaintiff

NORTH JERSEY BRAIN & SPINE CENTER. : SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY : LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY : DOCKET NO.: BER-L-3241-08

Plaintiff,

SUMMONS

VS.

UNITED BENEFIT FUND,

Defendant.

From The State of New Jersey

To The Defendant(s) Named Above: United Benefit Fund

The plaintiff, named above, has filed a lawsuit against you in the Superior Court of New Jersey. The complaint attached to this summons states the basis for this lawsuit. If you dispute this complaint, you or your attorney must file a written answer or motion and proof of service with the deputy clerk of the Superior Court in the county listed above within 35 days from the date you received this summons, not counting the date you received it. (The address of each deputy clerk of the Superior Court is provided.) If the complaint is one in foreclosure, then you must file your written answer or motion and proof of service with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. A filing fee of \$135.00 for Law Division cases or \$135.00 for Chancery Division cases, payable to the Clerk of the Superior Court and a completed Case Information Statement (available from the deputy clerk of the Superior Court) must accompany your answer or motion when it is filed. You must also send a copy of your answer or motion to plaintiff's attorney whose name and address appear above, or to the plaintiff, if no attorney is named above. A telephone call will not protect your rights; you must file and serve a written answer or motion (with fee and completed Case Information Statement) if you want the court to hear your defense.

If you do not file and serve a written answer or motion within 35 days, the court may enter a judgment against you for the relief plaintiff demands, plus interest and costs of suit. If judgment is entered against you, the Sheriff may seize your money, wages or property to pay all or part of the judgment.

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services office in the county where you live. A list of these offices is provided. If you do not have an attorney and are not eligible for free legal assistance, you may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer Referral Services. A list of these numbers is also provided.

/s/Theodore J. Fetter
THEODORE J. FETTER
Clerk of the Superior Court

Dated: May 1, 2008

Name of Defendant to be Served:

United Benefit Fund

Address of Defendant to be Served: 75-13 Metropolitan Avenue

Middle Village, New York 11379

SUPERIOR COURT BERGEN COUNTY
FILED

MAZIE SLATER KATZ & FREEMAN, LLC

103 Eisenhower Parkway Roseland, New Jersey 07068 (973) 228-9898 Attorneys for Plaintiff APR 2 9 2008

DEPUTY GLERK

NORTH JERSEY BRAIN & SPINE CENTER,

LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY
DOCKET NO.: BER-L- 3241-08

Plaintiff.

VS.

: COMPLAINT AND : JURY DEMAND

UNITED BENEFIT FUND,

Defendant.

Plaintiff, North Jersey Brain & Spine Center ("NJBSC"), by way of Complaint, alleges as follows:

THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, NJBSC is a neurosurgical medical practice specializing in the treatment of the brain and spinal cord and having its main office located at 20 Prospect Avenue, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601. At all relevant times, the plaintiff was (and is) an "out-of-network" medical practice that provided various medical services to subscribers and/or their dependants enrolled in the healthcare plans operated, controlled and/or administered by the defendant.
- Defendant, United Benefit Fund ("Fund") maintains its corporate offices at
 75-13 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, New York 11379.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

1. Fund operates, controls and/or administers managed healthcare or related insurance plans and claims submitted by its subscribers and/or their dependents. At all relevant times, Fund provided the following subscribers/dependents, and others that will be identified in the course of litigation, with "out-of-network" benefits, enabling these individuals to gain access to the physicians (providers) of their choice, rather than limiting access only to "in-plan" physicians as would be true with a health maintenance organization plan:

PATIENT	DATES OF
INITIALS	SERVICE
F.H.	10/19/07

- 2. On or about December 17, 2007, defendant's insured, patient F.H. was admitted to the emergency room at Hackensack University Medical Center with a history of metastatic lung cancer. The patient was unable to ambulate. A consult was performed and it was determined that the patient's cancer had spread to his thoracic spine. On December 19, 2007, NJBSC's surgeon performed medically necessary and successful spinal decompression, laminectomy and other services on F.H., to reduce the patient's significant spinal cord compression that had resulted from the patient's neurological deficit progression.
- 3. Pursuant to New Jersey statutory and administrative regulations, defendant Fund was obligated to pay NJBSC 100% of plaintiff's billed usual, customary and reasonable ("UCR") fees, less the patient's co-pay, co-insurance or deductible, if any. Moreover, defendant Fund was required to make payment to plaintiff within 40 calendar days of receipt of plaintiff's bill. Contrary to these statutory and administrative code

provisions, however, Fund has not paid anything for the surgical services rendered and plaintiff's bill remains outstanding.

- 4. It cannot be reasonably disputed that all of the surgical procedures performed were "medically necessary" and were emergency procedures.
- 5. The UCR fee, often referred to as the "reasonable and customary" fee, is defined, or is reasonably interpreted to mean, the amount that "out-of-network" providers, like the plaintiff, normally charge to their patients in the free market, <u>i.e.</u>, without an agreement with an insurance company or other payor to reduce such a charge in exchange for obtaining access to the insurance company's or Fund's subscribers. Moreover, the UCR fee means the usual charge for a particular service by providers in the same geographic area with similar training and experience.
- 6. With respect to the services at issue rendered to the subscribers/dependents, defendant arbitrarily refused to pay the plaintiff for such services. In fact, after being contacted about these claims which were never paid, defendant has still refused to process and pay said claims.
- By and through this lawsuit, NJBSC now seeks damages, due to defendant's actions.
- 8. The claims in this lawsuit do not arise under ERISA, do not arise from an assignment of benefits and do not arise under any purported federal common law or doctrine. All of the subject claims arise from New Jersey state common and statutory law.

FIRST COUNT (Unjust Enrichment)

1. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth above as if set forth in full herein.

- 2. At all relevant times, defendant consistently and systematically refused to pay plaintiff for the medical services it provided to the subscribers/dependents, contrary to its insurance coverage, statutory and regulatory obligations.
- 3. The defendant was paid premiums by its subscribers for out-of-network benefits and, pursuant to said premiums, was legally obligated to provide such coverage to its subscribers. In order to satisfy its coverage obligations to its subscribers, defendant, by necessity, required the services of NJBSC, to render medical services. Plaintiff did, in fact, render surgical services to defendant's subscribers.
- 4. The defendant has therefore received a benefit as a result of plaintiff's rendering of medical services that remain unpaid. Thus, Fund has been unjustly enriched through the use of funds that earned interest or otherwise added to its profits when said money should have been paid in a timely and appropriate manner to the plaintiff.
- 5. As a result of the defendant's unjust enrichment, NJBSC has suffered damages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against defendant for:

- a) Compensatory damages;
- b) Interest;
- b) Costs of suit;
- c) Punitive Damages;
- d) Attorney's fees; and
- d) Such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

SECOND COUNT

(Violations of New Jersey Regulations Governing Payment for Emergency Services Rendered By Non-Participating Providers)

- 1. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth above as if set forth in full herein.
- 2. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 11:22-5.6(b), 11:24-5.3(b), 11:24-5.1(a), and 11:24-9.1(d), defendant was obligated to pay NJBSC 100% of plaintiff's usual, customary and reasonable ("UCR") fees, less the patient's copay, co-insurance or deductible.
- 3. Contrary to New Jersey administrative code provisions, however, defendant Fund has not paid for the surgical services rendered and plaintiff's bill remains outstanding.
- 4. As a result of the defendant's intentional and blatant violations of the subject administrative codes, plaintiff has been damaged. Plaintiff has a private right of action, express or implied, to prosecute its claim under these regulations.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against defendant for:

- a) Compensatory damages;
- b) Interest;
- e) Costs of suit;
- f) Punitive Damages;
- d) Attorney's fees; and
- e) Such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just

THIRD COUNT (Violations of the HINT Act and HCAPPA)

- 1. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth above as if set forth in full herein.
- 2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:30-23, 17:48-8.4, 17:48A-7.12, 17:48E-10.1, 17B:26-9.1, 17B:27-44.2 and 26:2J-8.1 (the relevant portions of what is commonly referred to as the Healthcare Information Networks and Technologies ("HINT") Act), and the corresponding administrative code sections codified at N.J.A.C. 11:22-1 et seq., defendant is required to remit payment to a healthcare provider for an "eligible" noncapitated claim for medical services no later than thirty (30) calendar days following electronic receipt of the claim by defendant or, if not submitted electronically, not later than forty (40) calendar days following receipt. In the alternative, defendant is required to notify the provider within the same time frames of the specific reasons for a denial or dispute and to expeditiously request any missing information or documentation required to process the claims. (This provision of the HINT Act was amended effective July 11, 2006 as to electronic claims and reduced to seven (7) calendar days pursuant to the Health Claims Authorization, Processing and Payment Act ("HCAPPA")). The failure to do so constitutes an unequivocal waiver of defendant's right to contest such claims for any reason other than fraud. All overdue payments must bear simple interest at the rate of ten (10) percent per annum. (This interest rate increased to twelve (12) percent per annum effective July 11, 2006 pursuant to the Health Claims Authorization, Processing and Payment Act HCAPPA).
- 3. Despite its statutory duties, defendant as a matter of its own pattern and practice, delayed payment of properly submitted claims from the plaintiff and did not pay

them at all, and then did not pay interest on the delayed payments. The defendant benefits by this practice. By delaying payment of a claim, defendant earns profits from its use of the funds, profits that it would not earn if payment were made in a timely manner.

- 4. NJBSC has submitted "clean" or "eligible" non-capitated claims which defendant has failed to pay within the prescribed statutory time period despite numerous attempts by plaintiff to address and resolve these issues with defendant. These practices by defendant are in violation of the HINT Act and HCAPPA.
- 5. The foregoing acts or omissions by defendant, in violation of the HINT Act and HCAPPA, were intentional and accompanied by a wanton and willful disregard of the rights of plaintiff. These acts or omissions include, but are not limited to, defendant's: (i) delay or denial of payment of properly submitted claims; (ii) failure to pay interest on the delayed payments; (iii) failure to notify plaintiff of the reasons for non-payment of claims; (iv) offering of evasive or incomplete explanations to plaintiff regarding the status of outstanding claims; and (v) failure to timely notify plaintiff of the specific reasons for a claim dispute or denial. The defendant has engaged in such conduct with knowledge that there was a high degree of probability of harm by these acts or omissions because of its understanding that the plaintiff is simply too occupied with the practice of medicine and the care of its patients to be inconvenienced with never ending follow-up communications with defendant on outstanding, unpaid or inappropriately paid claims. The defendant's conduct in this regard demonstrates a reckless indifference to the consequences of its acts or omissions.

6. As a result of defendant's violations of the HINT Act and HCAPPA,
NJBSC has been damaged. Plaintiff has a private right of action, express or implied, to
prosecute its claims under the statutes and regulations.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against defendant for:

- (a) Compensatory damages and interest for payment of the medical services provided which remain unpaid, are delayed or reduced as a result of the improper claims processing tactics utilized by the defendant;
- (b) Costs of suit;
- (c) Punitive Damages;
- (d) Attorney's fees; and
- (e) Such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

MAZIE SLATER KATZ & FREEMAN, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff

HEW R. MENDELSOHN

DATED: April 28, 2008

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

Plaintiff hereby designates Eric D. Katz, Esq. as trial counsel in the above matter.

MAZIE SLATER KATZ & FREEMAN, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED: April 28, 2008

MATTHEW R. MENDELSOHN

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 4:5-1(b) 2

MATTHEW R. MENDELSOHN, of full age, hereby certifies that:

- I am an associate with the law firm of Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman, LLC, attorneys for plaintiff in this action.
- 2. To the best of my knowledge, the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any Court or any pending arbitration proceeding.
- 3. No other actions or arbitration proceedings are contemplated by this plaintiff against the defendant at this time.
 - 4. I know of no other parties that should be joined in this action at this time.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

DATED: April 28, 2008

MAT NEW R. MENDELSOHN

H:\EDK\Comp Neuro\United Benefit Fund\Complaint and Jury Demand 4-23-08.doc